

fifteen minutes. How long is it going to take the legislature to think up all the exceptions that ought to be made?

It seems to me that this amendment is turned around exactly wrong. We could encourage the public positively rather than negatively. We could do it by statutory action which would require public information in a set of cases, and that is exactly the approach that we have been making, and that is exactly the approach we should be making.

I am troubled by the evidence or the statements of Delegate Willoner who says that a governmental proceeding is restricted to a judicial proceeding. This is a rather silly kind of definition. There are all manner of governmental proceedings which are not judicial.

When you go into the voting booth and cast your ballot you are concerned with a governmental procedure. When a governor has a conference with a legal advisor this is a governmental proceeding. When there is a conference of the judge with the lawyers in a case, this is a governmental proceeding.

Take the word "meeting". If the governor of the State and the mayor of the City of Baltimore have a meeting with respect to the enforcement of law and order, is this a meeting which must be open to the public?

When the governor calls in the acting head of the militia to prepare for a threatened riot, is it going to be necessary that they give due notice that this meeting is going to be held, and invite in the press and thus make it quite clear what the procedure will be in avoiding the riot?

THE CHAIRMAN: You have one-quarter minute.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: I am worried about the word "record." Delegate Willoner said that a letter would not be a finalized record. I hope to heaven we keep this word "finalized" out of the constitution, and for that matter out of the law, but I would submit that a letter from one official to another may become a very important part of the official record, and it would seem to me it would be extremely undesirable that we should write this kind of uncertainty and indefinable provision into the constitution.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Willoner.

DELEGATE WILLONER: I yield three minutes to Delegate Hostetter.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hostetter.

DELEGATE HOSTETTER: Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee of the Whole. First of all I suppose I should explain why my name is not on this Minority Report, and I wish Delegate Rybczynski were here because I do wholeheartedly support this Minority Report, and perhaps my name should appear there in parenthesis.

*(Laughter.)*

The reason that my name does not appear there is simply this: there has been some discussion among a number of delegates outside of our Committee. I have talked to them. There has been a feeling that perhaps this was a personal sort of thing, everyone in here knowing the type of business that I am in, and this might be the sort of thing that someone might try to put in the constitution for a personal reason. For that reason I requested that my support be withdrawn from this provision at that time.

I do wholeheartedly support it, and I believe that there is no single factor that is more important in our society today than a freedom of information concept, an area which is spelled out clearly and plainly to prevent the bureaucratic form of government which has been developing in this country to withhold information from the people with respect, particularly, to the way its funds are expended and also from the standpoint of the way its property is handled.

This also goes down to the little zoning board and the other administrative bodies throughout the State which have assumed the right to withhold such information as they desire.

This was never intended to get into private lives, to get into arrest records, for example. Nothing that is not rightly at the present time within the public domain, but only those things which are within the public domain.

I support this minority report. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Kiefer.

DELEGATE KIEFER: In the interest of saving time, I will reserve the rest of my time until the proponents have finished their report.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Willoner.

DELEGATE WILLONER: I yield three minutes to Delegate Mitchell.

DELEGATE MITCHELL: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates. I think that an editorial which appeared in the *Washington Post* best expresses my position. In that